

**REMARKS****Claim Status**

There were 18 claims in the original application numbered 1-18. There are now 16 claims numbered 1-11, 14-16, and 19-20. Claims 1, 9, 14, 19 and 20 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims argued herein is respectfully requested.

**Section 102 Rejections**

The Office Action rejected claims 1-11, 13-16, and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Smith (6,909,741). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, withdrawal of which is requested.

In more detail, the Office Action states that Smith discloses a method and corresponding system for providing service comprising an electronic supply chain management and collaborative planning including a plurality of hubs, a computer program coupled to each hub that distinguishes between simple tasks and complex tasks, and a server coupled to at least one of said hubs, wherein said server is dedicated to performing simple tasks, and a server coupled to at least one of said hubs, wherein said server is dedicated to performing complex tasks (col. 8, lines 10-40, col. 12, line 60 to col. 13, line 58, and fig. 3 of Smith).

Smith teaches a cable modem communication network including multiple hubs in which a quality of service is localized by the system. As shown in Fig. 3 of Smith, each of the multiple hubs

can have multiple serving groups servicing multiple subscriber devices. Col. 12, lines 60 to 65, of Smith states the following:

Referring next to FIG. 3, a diagram is shown of a cable modem communication network including multiple hubs in which a quality of service is localized, by the system of FIG. 2, for example, to a particular subscriber or physical portion, e.g. physical communication path of the network in accordance with yet another embodiment of the present invention.

However, Applicant does not see any disclosure or suggestion in Smith that localizing quality of service “to a particular subscriber or physical portion” is related to dedicating servers to simple or to complex tasks. In fact, Smith does not appear to Applicant to distinguish between “simple tasks” and “complex tasks.” Smith therefore does not disclose or suggest servers dedicated to performing complex tasks, servers dedicated to performing simple tasks, and a computer program coupled to each hub that distinguishes between simple and complex tasks, as recited by claim 1.

For at least the reasons cited in the arguments above, it is believed that independent claim 1 is allowable over Smith. Claims 2-8 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1. For at least this reason and the reasons cited above it is believed that claims 2-8 are allowable over Smith.

Claim 9 teaches determining the relative complexity of tasks associated with said message and separating messages depending upon whether they require processing. Messages requiring processing are sent to a heavyweight server, and messages that do not require processing are sent to a lightweight server. Smith does not teach or disclose determining the relative complexity of tasks, but rather localizes quality of service by a system. Further, Smith does not teach separating messages that require processing from those that do, sending a message requiring processing to a heavyweight server, and sending a message not requiring processing to a lightweight server. Claims 10 and 11

depend directly from claim 9. For at least this reason and the reasons cited above it is believed that claims 9, 10 and 11 are allowable over Smith.

Claim 14 is essentially claim 9 in an alternative claim form and for this reason and the arguments cited incident to claim 9 it is also believed to be allowable over Smith. Claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 14. For this reason and the reasons cited incident to claim 14, claims 14, 15 and 16 are also believed to be allowable over Smith.

Claim 19 teaches a server dedicated to performing simple tasks and a server dedicated to performing complex tasks with a computer program that distinguishes between simple and complex tasks. Smith does not teach or disclose servers dedicated to performing complex tasks and servers dedicated to performing simple tasks and a computer program coupled to each hub that distinguishes between simple and complex tasks. For at least the reasons cited in the arguments above, it is believed that independent claim 19, is allowable over Smith.

Claim 20 states in part “a set of regional authorities for controlling access to a set of information, said set of regional authorities dividing access control of said set of information among said set of designated regional authorities...” Applicant cannot find this claim element in any combination of the Examiner-cited paragraphs of Smith (i.e. col. 8, lines 10-40, col. 12, line 60 to col. 13, line 58, and fig. 3 of Smith), nor in the remainder of Smith. For at least this reason and the reasons cited above it is believed that claim 20 is allowable over Smith.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application. The above discussion addresses patentability of all independent claims and certain dependent claims of the application. As regards

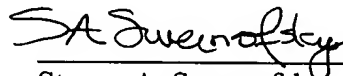
the dependent claims not specifically discussed, these claims should be patentable over the reference together with their base claims and intervening claims, if any.

### CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentable over Smith. To discuss any matter pertaining to the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (650) 947-0700. Having made an effort to bring the application in condition for allowance, a timely notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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